

Docket No.: 122.1469

Serial No. 09/942,733

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims claim 1, 9, 14, 20 and 21 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A touch panel comprising:

electrically insulating spacers;

a double-faced tape;

a pair of relatively fixed and moveable panels, the movable panel being moveable in response to pressure applied thereto and each panel having a transparent conductive film adhered on a transparent board, the panels being ~~which are~~ arranged via the electrically insulating spacers so that the respective transparent conductive films of the pair of panels are opposed to each other, wherein one of the transparent conductive films being divided into a plurality of regions of desired forms by channels is formed by laser etching, and the pair of panels are being joined at respective perimeters thereof via the double-faced tape; and

a conductive film damage preventing element made of an elastic material mounted on at least one of the panel and the double-faced tape, to prevent damage, so as to cover an area of the transparent conductive film on the movable panel otherwise subject to potentially damaging contact by an edge of the double-faced tape, to a remaining one of the conductive films which receives input pressure, is mounted on a moveable board or the double-faced tape.

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The touch panel of claim 1, wherein a plurality of electrode circuits connected to different external conductive wires are provided on the one conductive film, and boundary lines are formed with narrow channels so that said plurality of electrode circuits are not short-circuited.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The touch panel of claim 2, wherein the one conductive film is divided at least into a same number of the regions as the electrode circuits.

Docket No.: 122.1469

Serial No. 09/942,733

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The touch panel of claim 2, wherein closed channels are formed near a periphery so that the regions having the electrode circuits are not exposed at a side edge.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The touch panel of claim 1, wherein a diameter of a laser spot for the laser etching is 0.1 mm to 2.0 mm.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The touch panel of claim 1, wherein laser light for the laser etching is an infrared ray with a wavelength of 900 nm or more.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The touch panel of claim 1, wherein a pulse width of laser light for the laser etching is 1 ns or less.

8. (CANCELED)

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The touch panel of claim 1, further comprising: an insulation layer extending to an inside of the edge of the double-faced tape is arranged between one of the pair of panels- the fixed panel and the double-faced tape, and extending beyond an inside edge of the double-spaced tape; and
the conductive film damage preventing element extends to extending beyond an inside of an edge of the insulation layer so as to cover an area of the transparent conductive film on the movable panel otherwise subject to potentially damaging contact by the inside edge of the insulation layer.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The touch panel of claim 1, wherein the elastic material is rubber resin.

11. (CANCELED)

12. (CANCELED)

13. (CANCELED)

Docket No.: 122.1469

Serial No. 09/942,733

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A touch panel comprising:
electrically insulating spacers;
a double-faced tape;
a pair of relatively fixed and moveable panels, the moveable panel being moveable in response to pressure applied thereto and each panel having a transparent conductive film adhered on a transparent board, the panels being which are arranged via the electrically insulating spacers so that the respective transparent conductive films of the pair of panels are opposed to each other, wherein the pair of panels are being joined at respective perimeters thereof via the double-faced tape; and

a conductive film damage preventing element made of an elastic material mounted on at least one of the panel and the double-faced tape, to prevent damage, so as to cover an area of the transparent conductive film on the movable panel otherwise subject to potentially damaging contact by an edge of the double-faced tape, to one of the transparent conductive films of a respective one of the pair of panels, which is a moving-side panel and receives input pressure, is mounted on the transparent board of the moving-side panel or the double-faced tape.

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The touch panel of claim 14, further comprising:
an insulation layer extending to an inside of the edge of the double-faced tape is arranged between a remaining one of the pair of panels, which is a fixed-side the fixed panel opposed to the moving-side panel and the double-faced tape; and
the conductive film damage preventing element extends to extending beyond an inside of an edge of the insulation layer.

16. (ORIGINAL) The touch panel of claim 14, wherein the elastic material is rubber resin.

17. (CANCELED)

18. (CANCELED)

19. (CANCELED)

Docket No.: 122.1469

Serial No. 09/942,733

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A touch panel, comprising:

a double-faced tape;

a pair of fixed and relatively movable panels, each having a transparent conductive film provided on a corresponding transparent board so that the respective transparent conductive films of the pair of panels are opposed to each other and spaced apart, the pair of panels being coupled at respective perimeters thereof via the double-faced tape; and

a film shielding unit provide adjacent an edge-mounted on of the double-faced tape and having a first portion disposed between the double faced tape and the transparent conductive film of the moveable panel and a second portion extending inwardly relatively to an inner edge of the double-faced tape, so as to cover an area of the transparent conductive film on the movable panel otherwise subject to potentially damaging contact by the inner edge of the double-faced tape, to prevent damage thereby to one of the conductive films of the movable panel pair of panels which receives input pressure.

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED AND TO BE FURTHER AMENDED) A touch panel having a pair of panels with respective transparent conductive films thereon, each of the panels being spaced apart and coupled together by a double-faced tape disposed on and extending between the respective perimeters of the pair of panels, one of the panels receiving being moveable in response to input pressure thereon indicating a location on the one of said panels, comprising:

a shielding unit provide provided adjacent an inner edge of the double-faced tape and having a portion disposed between the moveable panel and the respective transparent conductive film, so as to cover an area of the transparent conductive film on the movable panel otherwise subject to potentially damaging contact by the inner edge of the double-faced tape, to prevent damage thereby to one of the conductive films of the pair of panels.